

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;
3 receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of
4 alternative choices may be evaluated;
5 receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the
6 computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals
7 via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the
8 set of criteria and comprising a set of weights that indicate importance of respective
9 criteria from the set of criteria and a set of evaluations that correspond to possible
10 attributes of the respective criteria; and
11 based on the assessments, providing a relative analysis of the alternative
12 choices;
13 wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with direct
14 entry.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the assessments include evaluation of
2 alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry and multiple choice.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 including determining a shift constant.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 including determining a shift constant.

2 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the determination of a shift constant
3 comprises reference to a substantially ideal choice.

1 6. The method of claim 1, including performing a sensitivity analysis.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein direct entry comprises using a value
2 function to determine grades.

1 8. The method of claim 1, including combining assessments of criteria to form
2 analysis of respective criteria not directly assessed by the set of individuals.

1 9. A method comprising:
2 receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;
3 receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of
4 alternative choices may be evaluated;
5 receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the
6 computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals
7 via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the
8 set of criteria and comprising a set of weights that indicate importance of respective
9 criteria from the set of criteria and a set of evaluations that correspond to possible
10 attributes of the respective criteria; and
11 based on the assessments, providing a relative analysis of the alternative
12 choices;

13 wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with multiple
14 choice.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the assessments include evaluation of
2 alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry and multiple choice

1 11. A system comprising logic in a computer system that:
2 receives a set of alternative choices;
3 receives a set of criteria by which the set of alternative choices may be
4 evaluated;
5 receives, via a data network coupled to the computer system, a set of
6 assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals via the computer
7 network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the set of
8 criteria and comprising a set of weights and a set of evaluations; and
9 based on the assessments, provides a relative analysis of the alternative
10 choices;
11 wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with at least one
12 of direct entry and multiple choice.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic comprises software.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic comprises electronic hardware.

1 14. The system of claim 11, including determining of weights using pairwise
2 comparison combined with direct entry.

1 15. The system of claim 11, including evaluating alternatives using pairwise
2 comparison combined with multiple choice.

1 16. A method comprising:
2 receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;
3 receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of
4 alternative choices may be evaluated;
5 receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the
6 computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals
7 via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the
8 set of criteria and comprising a set of weights and a set of evaluations, and wherein the
9 assessments include pairwise comparison;
10 providing a solution that avoids iterative computations; and
11 based on the solution, providing a relative analysis of the alternative
12 choices.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the solution comprises determining an
2 inverse matrix.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the solution comprises:

2 determining at least one pairwise comparison matrix corresponding to at least one
3 individual from the set of individuals;
4 determining a cardinality matrix corresponding to the pairwise comparison
5 matrices;
6 determining a cardinality summation matrix comprising the row totals of the
7 cardinality matrix;
8 determining an intermediate matrix by subtracting the cardinality matrix from the
9 cardinality summation matrix;
10 determining an inverse intermediate matrix by evaluating the matrix-inverse of the
11 intermediate matrix;
12 determining a summation pairwise matrix by summing together the pairwise
13 comparison matrices; and
14 based on a multiplication of the inverse intermediate matrix, the summation
15 pairwise matrix and a unit column vector; providing a relative analysis of the alternative
16 choices.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the relative analysis of the alternative
2 choices comprises determination of a measure of consistency of the assessments.

1 20. The method of claim 16, including leaving blank a respective entry in the
2 pairwise comparison matrix to account for an assessment not provided by an individual
3 providing fewer assessments than the total possible number of assessments available for
4 the set of alternatives.